

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH 1948

Figures in parentheses refer to the previous year.

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. Drought losses in the years 1944-45 and 1945-46 had reduced stock numbers considerably but sheep and cattle both recorded substantial increases during the past two seasons. Specially pleasing features are the increased numbers of lambs marked and the number of ewes. The cattle total of 445,287 exceeds the previous record of 425,811 in 1923 and the number of dairying cows (in milk, dry and springing heifers) - 196,739 - exceeds the previous record of 187,566 for March 1944. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep 414,971 (379,992). Cattle 14,807 (14,829) Horses 3,755 (4,450) and Pigs 5,033 (6,590).

SHEEP. 9,055,237 (7,958,619) an increase of 1,096,618 on the previous year but still 1,315,328 less than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. There were 4,655,046 (4,218,596) breeding and 477,461 (329,815) other ewes, 1,715,478 (1,326,176) wethers; 133,461 (121,094) rams and 2,073,791 (1,962,938) lambs.

BREEDS OF SHEEP. These particulars were not collected this year.

LAMBING 1947. 4,090,231 (3,748,453) ewes were mated and 3,099,436 (2,837,308) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 75.78 (75.69). The percentage has been exceeded only by the record of 78.68 in 1917, but the number of lambs marked was exceeded in each of the years 1939 to 1943, the record being 3,322,810 in 1943.

LAMBING 1948. 4,510,897 ewes were mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1948 - 3,163,527 to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,347,372 to rams of other breeds. The number of ewes mated or intended is 400,000 more than the actual for 1947 and 1,500,000 more than for 1945 and is only approximately 100,000 less than the record numbers from 1940 to 1943.

WOOL CLIP. 9,328,822 (7,960,779) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings etc. being 88,651,119 (76,179,041) lbs. The average fleece for sheep and lambs combined was 9.50 (9.57) lbs and for sheep only 11.26 (11.51) lbs. The total wool production would include approximately another 16,000,000 (16,840,554) lbs for wool fellmongered and on skins for export, making a total wool production of 105,000,000 (93,019,595) lbs.

CATTLE. All kinds 445,287 (423,980) increase 21,307. Dairying cows 196,739 (186,920) were classified as follows - in milk 112,726 (119,138) dry 54,228 (44,854) and springing heifers 29,785 (22,928). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 23,374 (19,665), dairy calves 46,414 (47,364), dairy bulls 8,604 (8,118) beef cows and heifers 82,891 (69,803) beef calves 37,342 (36,223), beef bulls 2,217 (2,328) and other beef cattle 47,706 (53,559).

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June 1948 are as follows: Butter 21,500,000 (22,043,426) lbs, cheese 25,750,000 (28,601,047) lbs and Bacon and Ham 11,300,000 (11,354,857) lbs. Cheese production was only exceeded by the record of the previous year, while bacon and ham and also butter production closely approached the previous records. Grand total milk production was estimated to be 91,000,000 gallons, being exceeded only by the 94,000,000 gallons of the previous year.

HORSES. 100,619 (109,274) of which foals were 3,160 (2,658) draught 65,876 (72,628) and other 31,583 (33,988). The number of horses is very little more than half of the number (200,870) in 1936.

PIGS. 100,343 (134,033) of which there were 2,254 (2,909) boars, 11,677 (16,988) breeding sows 33,062 (43,042) baconers and porkers, 1,454 (1,520) backfatters 12,242 (13,188) stores, and 39,654 (56,386) weaners, suckers and slips.

GOYDER'S LINE OF RAINFALL AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 2,564,096 (2,258,754) sheep, 125,125 (128,701) cattle and 26,542 (28,946) horses, while inside there were 6,491,141 (5,699,865) sheep 320,162 (295,279) cattle and 74,077 (80,328) horses.

SLAUGHTERINGS, 1947 (1946) were as follows:-

Sheep 739,197 (818,835) Lambs 920,488 (842,966), Cattle 147,503 (146,196), Pigs 174,845 (158,856). Prior to the War, the annual slaughterings were approximately - Sheep 900,000, Lambs 800,000, Cattle 160,000 and Pigs 155,000. For the first six months of 1948 (1947) the slaughterings have been - Sheep 410,000 (365,000) Lambs 243,000 (243,000) Cattle 78,000 (65,000) and Pigs 77,000 (85,000).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31ST 1948 IN COMPARISON WITH MARCH 31st, 1947

Division	Sheep		Cattle		Horses	Pigs
	1948 No	1947 No.	1948 No.	1947 No.	1948 No.	1948 No.
Central	1,969,278	1,743,443	153,817	143,585	30,354	45,343
Lower North	1,458,171	1,219,363	33,516	31,488	15,268	24,248
Upper North	852,433	780,543	19,472	17,723	7,539	4,506
South Eastern	1,695,475	1,520,811	103,598	93,632	8,078	4,789
Western	1,499,522	1,335,944	16,549	16,214	18,508	9,134
Murray Mallee	775,516	640,662	27,676	25,055	13,281	12,319
Total counties	8,250,395	7,240,766	354,628	327,697	93,028	100,339
Outside counties	804,842	717,853	90,659	96,283	7,591	4
Total State	9,055,237	7,958,619	445,287	423,980	100,619	100,343
Increase	1,096,618	1,172,081	21,307	49,884	- 8,655	-33,690

WOOL PRODUCTION

Division	Wool Clip			Average Weight Fleece		
	1947-48 Lbs.	1946-47 Lbs.	Increase Lbs.	1947-48 Lbs.	1946-47 Lbs.	Increase Lbs.
Central	19,511,553	17,032,737	2,478,816	9.43	9.45	-0.02
Lower North	15,003,381	12,535,715	2,467,666	10.30	10.28	0.02
Upper North	8,573,789	6,786,475	1,807,314	10.07	10.28	-0.21
South Eastern	16,612,925	15,336,268	1,276,657	8.98	8.87	0.11
Western	13,654,332	12,647,499	1,006,833	8.69	9.25	-0.56
Murray Mallee	7,193,389	5,177,281	2,016,108	9.45	9.39	0.06
Total counties	80,549,369	69,495,975	11,053,394	9.41	9.48	-0.07
Outside "	8,101,750	6,683,066	1,418,684	10.55	10.56	-0.01
Total State	88,651,119	76,179,041	12,472,078	9.50	9.57	-0.07

Grand Total Wool Production (Clip, Fellmongered and on Skins exported) subject to slight revision, 1947-48 105,000,000 lbs. 1946-47 93,019,595 lbs.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.
19th August, 1948

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GOVERNMENT STATIST.